

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

Booking an Airbnb: The Good, The Bad, and the #1 Question to Ask Yourself

AUGUST 10, 2017

Founded less than 10 years ago, Airbnb is the Grand Poohbah of the sharing economy. In that short time, millions of people have gussied up their unused guest rooms, made their entire homes available and even purchased properties just to put them on Airbnb. There are 3 million listings in 191 countries and more than half a million people will be sleeping in one tonight.

But is Airbnb right for you? Read on to learn the pros and cons of booking an Airbnb, plus get a referral code for \$40 off your first stay. And if you have used it, enjoy some tales from other travelers and learn the #1 question you need to ask yourself before you book.

Airbnbs are well-suited for families and people who like to cook

Because you can rent an entire house or apartment, you can choose to have enough bedrooms to house a family, and of course, have a kitchen.

Despite some hiccups, Nubia DuVall Wilson and her family of four have overall had good experiences with Airbnb. “My family and I exclusively stay at Airbnbs because I have two under the age of five. There’s always something when you rent an Airbnb, but we’ve always had good experiences. Once at a place in the Catskills the water ran out because of a town drought, so one of our three days there we couldn’t flush toilets or run water. It made it feel like a real rustic cabin and the owners were quick to get someone to fix it.

“This summer we were in Washington, DC, and the owners hadn’t paid the cable bill, so our last night in the house, there was no cable TV or Internet but we weren’t using it anyway and we had our phones for internet access so it wasn’t a big deal.”

Nubia said that having a home with a kitchen and several bedrooms makes traveling with children easier and more enjoyable. “Two-bedroom hotel suites are pricey and don’t have kitchens. I want the option to cook breakfast and dinner if I want. I also want to have a glass of wine and stay up past 8 p.m. with the lights on after the kids to bed, but you can’t do that when you are sharing your room with the kids at a hotel!



Nubia Wilson and her family in Washington, DC. They stay exclusively at Airbnbs. Nubia said that having a home with a kitchen and several bedrooms makes traveling with children easier and more enjoyable.